

## FRANCE.

Herald Special Reports from  
Paris and Versailles.Preparations Making for Another Great  
Sortie.

## THE FRENCH CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS.

The German Line Extended  
and Weak.Four Months' Provisions Remain-  
ing in the City.German Officers Dread the Result  
of Another Sortie.Von Moltke Apprehensive of the Forma-  
tion of New French Armies.Prince Frederick Charles Not to Advance Too  
Far from Versailles.Bismarck Anxious to Destroy the  
Republic.The French Armies on the Loire to Resume  
the Offensive.

## THE BELEAGUERED CAPITAL.

## TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The recent Sortie satisfactory—Weakness of the German Line—Another Sortie Preparing—Pushing Field Works—Depleting the German Ranks—Surrender Unthought of—Four Months' Supply of Food Remaining—General Matters.

LONDON, Dec. 18, 1870. I have received letters from the NEW YORK HERALD correspondent in Paris, bearing dates of the 11th and 12th inst. From them I extract the following intelligence:

THE RECENT SORTIE SATISFACTORY. The letter of the 11th states that the recent sortie of the French army under General Ducrot was in every respect satisfactory to the besieged. It proved conclusively that the German lines are weak. The French are confident of their ability to break through the investing army at the proper moment. The active field army, commanded by General Ducrot, is in good health and spirits, and is well fed. It numbers fully two hundred thousand men, and is well disciplined, armed and equipped.

ANOTHER SORTIE PREPARING. Great preparations are making for another sortie from the city. It will be on a much larger scale than the first one. Nothing can be learned as to the date on which it will be made, but it is likely to take place before long.

PUSHING THE FIELD WORKS. Outside the forts the French works have been pushed forward with such energy and success that they have compelled the Germans to enlarge their line of investment, which has, consequently, grown weaker. These field works enable the artillery and sharpshooters to command roads which were entirely out of range of their guns a few weeks ago. As the same time it must be said that the German positions have been enormously strengthened, but there is a scarcity of men to defend them.

DEPLETING THE GERMAN RANKS. The reverses of the French at Orleans have been made known to the army and people, who have received the news with marked equanimity. It is generally believed that General de Palladine's army, though defeated, has done good service in depleting the German ranks, and consequently breaking the besieging force.

SURRENDER UNTHOUGHT OF. Such a thing as capitulating is unthought of. Every Parisian is armed, and the people, as well as the army, are in good spirits and confident. The letter, dated the 13th, from which a great part of the foregoing is taken, states that Paris can hold out for at least three months longer without experiencing any great suffering. It is true that the mortality of the city is large, but it is not enough so to create alarm. No epidemics are prevalent, there have been no deaths from starvation and but little actual want.

THE FOOD SUPPLY. In the matter of food the situation may be pronounced favorable. It is true that such articles as fresh meats, eggs, fish and poultry are gone, but there is a supply of horseflesh for two months; of bread, wine and cheese for four months, and of salted meats and salted fish for two months. These provisions, it will be seen, will enable the city to hold out four months. By order of General Trochu the government has taken possession of all articles of food and wine. At the present time the entire population is supplied with food by the military commissariat in the same manner as the soldiers, and are allowed the same rations.

GENERAL MATTERS. Some of the theatres have reopened. It is believed that the amusement which the people will derive from the drama will be beneficial, as it will relieve the monotony of life in a besieged city. Ordinary games are still plentiful. Numerous cabs are still to be seen on the streets, their horses not having been eaten.

THE BESIEGING ARMY. A correspondent writing to the London Times states that when in Sedan, on the 25th ult., he saw the original letter addressed to the Emperor by General Wimpfen, Commander-in-Chief of the French army, proposing to force a passage through the Prussian lines. The document was accidentally found after the city's surrender. As it may, perhaps, interest many to read the exact words used in making so desperate a proposition, and as they have not hitherto been published in England, he sends the following copy:

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The truth of the recent Sortie—Ducrot's Success—The Germans Fear Another Attack—Demand for the Bombardment of Paris—Von Moltke Apprehensive—Bismarck Pressing the Political Movement.

LONDON, Dec. 18, 1870. I have received despatches from the NEW YORK HERALD correspondent at Versailles, dated on the 13th inst., containing the following intelligence:

THE TRUTH OF THE RECENT SORTIE. Your correspondent writes that the German accounts of the recent sortie from Paris evade the truth in important particulars. The French army, commanded by General Ducrot, was

entirely successful as far as it went. It captured and held the peninsula of St. Maurice against all the German attempts to recover its position. The French retired voluntarily only after information had been received of the failure of General de Palladine to force back the German army near Orleans.

THE GERMAN FEAR ANOTHER SORTIE. Military men are confident that the French could have gone entirely through the line of investment had De Palladine's operations been attended with any degree of success. The German leaders here are beginning to display uneasiness. Their line of investment has been weakened by reason of its enlargement, and they express fears of the success of another sortie if the French mass their forces upon any single part of the line.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS DEMANDED. Among the German officers and soldiers at Versailles and around Paris there is a great demand for the bombardment of the city. Three councils of war have been held upon the question, but no bombardment has taken place yet.

VON MOLTKE'S FEARS. It is stated that General Von Moltke fears the organization of large armies in the South of France, which would further weaken Versailles than Orleans.

THE GERMAN OFFICERS DREAD THE RESULT OF ANOTHER SORTIE. The German officers dread the result of another sortie. They are confident that the French could have gone entirely through the line of investment had De Palladine's operations been attended with any degree of success. The German leaders here are beginning to display uneasiness. Their line of investment has been weakened by reason of its enlargement, and they express fears of the success of another sortie if the French mass their forces upon any single part of the line.

VON MOLTKE APPREHENSIVE OF THE FORMATION OF NEW FRENCH ARMIES. Von Moltke is apprehensive of the formation of new French armies. He is confident that the French could have gone entirely through the line of investment had De Palladine's operations been attended with any degree of success. The German leaders here are beginning to display uneasiness. Their line of investment has been weakened by reason of its enlargement, and they express fears of the success of another sortie if the French mass their forces upon any single part of the line.

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BISMARCK ANXIOUS TO DESTROY THE REPUBLIC. Bismarck is anxious to destroy the republic. He is confident that the French could have gone entirely through the line of investment had De Palladine's operations been attended with any degree of success. The German leaders here are beginning to display uneasiness. Their line of investment has been weakened by reason of its enlargement, and they express fears of the success of another sortie if the French mass their forces upon any single part of the line.

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THE CAMPAIGN IN  
CENTRAL FRANCE.The Campaign in Central  
France.Across the Country—Dangers—Fired On—Among  
the France-Tireurs—Who They Are—d  
What They Are—With Garibaldi's  
Army—Talk with a Garibaldian Offi-  
cer—Sentiment of the People of  
Lyons—The Desire for Peace.

STRAZBOURG, Province of Alsace, Nov. 22, 1870. I have just reached here from an unobscured track in Central France, after the rudest war experience I have yet encountered since hostilities commenced. A contact of over two weeks' duration with France-tireurs—surprises, arrests, endless delays, execrable wet weather, not to mention other dangers of life in a hostile country—would by this time have made me aware that a correspondent's mission in search of the news warlike of the day forces him to alight on anything but beds of roses, had I not known that little time before.

LIFE AMONG THE FRANCE-TIREURS. As you have heard, these patriotic gentry just now swarm in every section of France, giving extreme concern and harassment to the Prussian army and detachments, and earnest anxiety to all civilians whose object is to travel in France at this critical juncture. This is the second trip and the second section of the country in which I have had the lot to meet with the small armies of the republic, and to incur narrow escapes from their skirmishing operations; but of course it happens that I am in their way, not they in mine—they are trying to defend their native soil, whereas we talkers and writers cannot complain if on their errand of picking up the details of the war they meet with innumerable vexations and get run over rough shod now and then, as we have seen, without any malice prepense on the part of the France-tireurs.

THE FRENCH LINE. I sent you several notes written by the wayside; but I am in ignorance whether you ever received them, for they were mailed by hand. Having arrived on the main line of communication between the Rhine and Paris, I ascertained that the command of Prince Frederick Charles had actually started from the neighborhood of Metz, and that his Royal Highness, now Marshal of Prussia, had set out with his headquarters, to reinforce General Werder's army and to push a general onslaught on Lyons, it being aimed to crush resistance in that stronghold before it could build up and produce fruit at Parisienne. With the view to get up at the front of the projected siege operations in time to witness the preparations and engagements, I determined to go on ahead with the vanguard of Prince Frederick's army, composed of the 18th and 19th regiments, leaving the heavy columns to come up with their bulky ambulances in the usual less rapid manner. That was

THE PLAN OF CAMPAIGN. When I left to go forward, and the one on which I based my movements, I need scarcely add just here that by the time I was at my end of the rope, or almost jam up on Lyons, the Prince's army was nowhere in my rear, but had changed front to its right flank and oblique from Troyes via Fontainebleau towards Orleans. In consequence of the victory gained by General Paladine at Bapaume the 9th inst. The Prince divided his 80,000 men in three corps and launched them separately by forced marches in the most threatened direction with the usual Prussian energy and decision; and, perhaps before you receive this letter, they will have heard that he has given the hand to Von der Tann and shattered the French.

PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES' ARMY. His troops, I am convinced, are capable of giving a severe shock to any force they may encounter; and I am disposed to believe, even from what I hear from the French themselves, that neither the Prussian nor the German soldiers can withstand him. At present writing we do not know that the Prince has been engaged. I hope to be present when he is. True, we were led to believe by the despatch of King William of the 18th inst. that the whole French army had been defeated at Dreux; but that despatch turns out to have been a mere hoax, and the French army is still in the field. By the way, that village was very near to Versailles to be occupied by a French armed force; and it is not surprising that the Prussians got a considerable score for their new rally.

A SHOWER OF BULLETS. I moved down across country, and by the nearest route to the neighborhood of Dijon and Besancon. It was along this part of my travels that I encountered the detachments of France-tireurs in their various positions. They were everywhere, and a Prussian to fire upon at almost every step. They were constantly causing alarms, and once again, while going into a house to get some food, I was suddenly arrested by a dropping fire directed from out a thick wood upon the soldiers, of whose perilous task they were sharing to me. The Prussians, however, were not so easily deterred, and went on their way, and the soldiers were sufficiently numerous to beat the wood in every direction, and to prevent a very long continuance of the fire, which, while it lasted, consisted of rather thicker and heavier bullets. Without any damages, but with loud shouts from the soldiers, the free shooters took to their heels, and were out of sight and hearing in a trice. They numbered about a very small detachment which took place at a very short distance, and which was not so well armed as the Prussians. The old men were fired very excitedly and hastily, but yet we had their balls whizzing about our ears and only enough to make us feel that we were in a very dangerous position. The surprise was so sudden that we considered ourselves lucky with such a narrow escape. The soldiers, of course, fired back wildly at the first impression, and the Prussians were not so easily deterred, and went on their way, and the soldiers were sufficiently numerous to beat the wood in every direction, and to prevent a very long continuance of the fire, which, while it lasted, consisted of rather thicker and heavier bullets. Without any damages, but with loud shouts from the soldiers, the free shooters took to their heels, and were out of sight and hearing in a trice. 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